

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amendment) A carbon fiber felt comprising a carbon fiber aggregate, and a binder resin to bond the carbon fiber constituting said aggregate, wherein the felt contains a fire resistant agent comprising a silicone compound and an inorganic oxide,  
the silicone compound comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an organosiloxane and a silane, and  
the proportion of the fire resistant agent is 1 to 30 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber.
2. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a thermosetting resin.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound ~~fire resistant agent~~ comprises a silicone compound having a reactive group.
5. (Currently Amended) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound ~~fire resistant agent~~ comprises a silicone compound having at least two reactive functional groups.
6. (Original) A felt according to claim 5, wherein the reactive functional group is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydrolytic condensable group, an ether group, an epoxy group, a carboxyl group, a mercapto group, an amino group, a substituted amino group, a polymerizable unsaturated group, and an isocyanate group; and the silicone compound comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an organosiloxane and a silane.

7. (Currently Amended) A felt according to claim ~~[[5]]~~1, wherein the silicone compound ~~fire-resistant agent~~ comprises a polyorganosiloxane having at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group and an alkoxy group.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the binder resin is 1 to 50 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber, and the proportion of the fire resistant agent is 1 to 70 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.
10. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin contains the fire resistant agent.
11. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises a fine carbon fiber.
12. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the mean diameter of the carbon fiber is 0.5 to 2 $\mu$ m.
13. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises a pitch-based carbon fiber.
14. (Original) A felt according to claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises an anisotropic carbon fiber.
15. (Currently Amended) A felt according to claim 1, which comprises a web of the carbon fiber and a thermosetting resin for bonding the carbon fiber constituting said web, wherein the carbon fiber comprises an anisotropic pitch-based carbon fiber having a mean diameter of 0.5 to 5 $\mu$ m and a mean length of 1 to 15mm; and the felt contains the ~~at least one~~ fire resistant agent ~~selected from the group consisting of a phosphoric ester, a boric acid and a~~

~~silicone compound~~, in a proportion of 1.5 to 25 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber.

16. (Currently Amended) A felt according to claim 15, wherein the mean diameter of the carbon fiber is 0.5 to 2 $\mu$ m, the thermosetting resin comprises at least a phenol-series resin, and the silicone compound ~~fire-resistant agent~~ comprises the silicone compound having a reactive group; and the felt contains the fire resistant agent in a proportion of 2 to 20 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber.

17. (Original) A heat insulating material formed by the carbon fiber felt recited in claim 1.

18.-19. (Canceled)